

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4958

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: MOSCOW SEMINAR ON COLLECTIVE PHENOMENA (MSCP)

REF: (A) STATE 79556, (B) MOSCOW 3911

1. SEMINAR MENTIONED REFTEL A IS OBVIOUSLY THE SAME AS THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR OF THE "SUNDAY SEMINAR" (SEE REFTEL B AND PREVIOUS). WE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ORGANIZERS HAD HOPED TO AVOID FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN AND PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE SEMINAR. THE INTENTION OF A GROUP OF SENIOR AMERICAN SCIENTISTS TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR OBVIOUSLY CHANGES THE COMPLEXION OF THE SEMINAR CELEBRATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS HERE ARE AWARE OF THE INVITATION TO AMERICAN SCIENTISTS. ONE JOURNALIST HAS TOLD US THAT ANDREY SAKHAROV PLANS TO ATTEND THE ANNIVERSARY SESSION.

2. THE DECISION TO INCLUDE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION MAY WELL RESULT IN A DECISION BY THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO BAN THE ANNIVERSARY SESSION ALTOGETHER. THE SUNDAY SEMINAR HAS NOT BEEN BADLY HARASSED IN THE LAST TEN MONTHS AND WHEN WE LAST SAW ITS LEADERS THEY INDICATED THAT THEY HOPED TO KEEP IT THAT
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WAY. IN PARTICULAR THE HOPED TO AVOID A CRACKDOWN NOW THAT COULD RESULT IN CLOSING THE SEMINAR ALTOGETHER. THEY FELT THAT THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE FOR THE DECISIVE SOVIET ACTION TO PREVENT THE JEWISH CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM (LAST DECEMBER) FROM TAKING PLACE CAME FROM THE INTEREST WHICH THIS EVENT HAD ENGENDERED IN THE WESTERN PRESS. FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS IN AND WESTERN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY
MAKE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES MORE LIKELY TO CRACK DOWN
ON THE SEMINAR.

3. WHILE WE CANNOT OBJECT TO PRIVATE AMERICANS ATTENDING
THE SESSION, WE OBSERVE THAT TWO OF THE AMERICANS ARE
EMPLOYEES OF THE NIH. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES COULD
CONSIDER THE NIH SCIENTISTS AS USG SCIENTISTS, AND THE
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE DHEW AWARE OF THIS MATTER
(E.G., DR. PAUL EHRLICH). IF THE NIH SCIENTISTS DO
DECIDE TO COME, OBVIOUSLY THEY SHOULD NOT TRAVEL ON
OFFICIAL PASSPORTS.
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR. PERITO.

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